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This Iowa DNR Water Quality Listserv is a subscription service that you have requested. Its purpose is to deliver timely water quality technical information directly to your email.

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1. Reissue of General Permit #5

The Iowa DNR intends to reissue General Permit #5, which covers facilities primarily engaged in mining, quarrying, and further processing of dimension stone, crushed and broken limestone, and construction sand and gravel. However, the reissuance will not be completed before July 17, 2006, the expiration date of the current General Permit #5.

A major reason for delaying the reissuance of General Permit #5 is how to implement, in a general permit, TDS standards which became effective in December of 2004. The Iowa DNR is working with the industries and others to develop a strategy that will keep the general permit as a viable tool while still implementing all of the water quality standards.

All facilities currently covered under General Permit #5, if they wish to retain authorization to discharge from their operations after July 17, 2006, shall submit either a Notice of Intent to be covered by a subsequent general permit on or before July 16, 2006, or an application to obtain coverage under an individual permit on or before May 1, 2006.

For more information, please contact John Warren at (515) 242-6148 or john.warren@dnr.state.ia.us.

2. Wastewater Fees Rule Making Update

The Iowa DNR, at the request of the Iowa Administrative Rules Review Committee, had completed a Regulatory Analysis for the proposed rules to start collecting fees from wastewater dischargers. A summary of the Regulatory Analysis will be published in the March 14, 2006, issue of the Administrative Rules Bulletin and a full Regulatory Analysis can be found at: <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/npdes/rulemaking.html>.

A public hearing is scheduled for April 6, 2006, at 1:30 p.m., in the 4th floor conference rooms, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. Public comments on this rule making procedure must be received by 5:00 p.m. on April 7, 2006. Please send public comments to: Courtney Cswercko, Environmental Specialist, NPDES Permits Section, Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319. Alternatively, public comments may be e-mailed to Ms. Cswercko at Courtney.Cswercko@dnr.state.ia.us or faxed to her at (515) 281-8895 with the same closing date requirements.

If you need additional information with regard to this rule making process, please contact Angela Chen at (515) 281-4736 or angela.chen@dnr.state.ia.us.

3. Water Quality Standards Update

The proposed Water Quality Standards rule revisions are currently moving through the final stages of the formal rule making process. The Iowa DNR prepared a responsiveness summary to answer or address questions and comments that were received via public hearings, e-mails, and by letter. After considering the public comments, the responsiveness summary and final version of the rule changes were presented to the Environmental Protection Commission at the January 17, 2006, meeting. The Environmental Protection Commission approved the final rule which was then formally submitted for publication in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin. The final rules were published on February 15, 2006, and will go before the Administrative Rule Review Committee on March 13, 2006. For additional information regarding Water Quality Standards rule making efforts, please visit <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/standards/rulemaking.html>.

4. Water Main Installation in LUST site areas

This is a friendly reminder to utilities and design engineers to use caution with respect to installing water main in areas where Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) are present. The Iowa Administrative Code lists the 2003 Edition of the Recommended Standards for Water Works as the design standards for construction of water system improvements in the State of Iowa. Section 8.1.2 of these standards states, "Where distribution systems are installed in areas of groundwater contaminated by organic compounds, pipe and joint materials which do not allow permeation of the organic compounds shall be used."

Water main constructed of PVC or other types of plastic material does not satisfy this standard. When the installation of water main in organic contaminated areas cannot be prevented, all portions of the project including the pipe, joint materials, hydrant leads, and service connections must be constructed of non-permeable materials. Ductile Iron Pipe or other impermeable metal pipes used in conjunction with petroleum resistant nitrile gaskets are recommended to be utilized in the organic contaminated areas.

The UST/LUST Section of the Iowa DNR is the most informative resource with respect to LUST site issues. This Section has files available to the public that correspond to each identified LUST site. These files include detailed organic contamination plume maps that could be extremely useful in water main design through these contaminated areas. The UST/LUST Section individual website (<http://www.iowadnr.com/land/ust/index.html>) can be located through the "Land Related Issues" link from the Iowa DNR homepage. In addition to Iowa DNR contact information; this webpage contains a vast array of useful information about the program.

Also available at the UST/LUST section website is the Iowa DNR UST System Database (<http://csbweb.igsb.uiowa.edu/ustweb/>). This database tracks regulated UST/LUST sites. Performing database searches can offer site specific information including pertinent lists of identified LUST sites. With respect to performing a LUST site search it is extremely important to clarify the "Classification" field, where it commonly states "No Further Action Required". This does not necessarily mean that the LUST site has been remediated. Most often this suggests that there is no plastic pipe in the vicinity of the LUST site that must be replaced at the current time,

hence “No Further Action Required”. If a LUST site is on the list obtained while performing a LUST site search in this database, it is an active LUST site. If the utility possesses no applicable LUST site information, the only way to gather information on the extent of the contaminated areas for the purpose of water main design is to contact the UST/LUST Section and search through the appropriate LUST files.

The Iowa DNR UST/LUST Section is located at 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319. For further questions regarding LUST site issues, please contact Elaine Douskey, Acting Supervisor of the UST/LUST Section, at (515)281-8011.

5. Operator Certification: Electronic Exams

The Iowa DNR is now offering exams for Grades 1 and 2 for Water Treatment, Water Distribution and Wastewater Treatment electronically at the Iowa DNR Central Office at 401 SW 7th St in Des Moines or at Regional Field Office #1 in Manchester, Field Office #2 in Mason City and Field Office #3 in Spencer. Operators may call Jane Enfield at 515/725-0463 to schedule an electronic exam for any of the above locations Monday through Friday during Iowa DNR business hours. These exams given on a computer are user-friendly and offer the convenience of immediate scoring after exam completion. An operator knows their score and receives their exam diagnostic evaluation before they leave the building.

All types and grades of exams are still being offered monthly on paper. You can find a copy of the 2006 Exam Schedule on our IDNR Operator Certification website at <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/files/examsched.pdf>.

Relevant Links

For more information on Iowa DNR water quality programs, please visit the following address: <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/index.html>.